

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:	
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-2018-0003

**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT FILED
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

(Issued September 27, 2019)

On September 3, 2019, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for confidential treatment of certain information contained in its status update regarding its Wind VIII, Wind IX, Wind X, Wind XI, and Wind XII projects.

The information for which confidential treatment is sought includes reports containing certain cost information for MidAmerican's wind projects (collectively the Confidential Information) which were consolidated into Docket No. RPU-2018-0003 as a result of the Board's April 19, 2019 Order Consolidating Semi-Annual Reports. MidAmerican supported its request for confidentiality with an affidavit of a corporate officer. The Confidential Information was filed separately and marked confidential. MidAmerican cited Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) as authority for confidential treatment of the Confidential Information.

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MidAmerican claims the Confidential Information is a report to a governmental agency that, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose and, therefore, should be held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6). MidAmerican states that release of the Confidential Information would harm its ability to obtain competitively priced power in the wholesale market and hurt its negotiating leverage for future wind projects, to the detriment of MidAmerican's retail customers. No objections have been filed to MidAmerican's application for confidential treatment.

The Confidential Information qualifies as a report to a governmental agency. Based on the affidavit submitted by MidAmerican, release of the Confidential Information serves no public purpose. Therefore, the Board will hold the Confidential Information confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6).

The Confidential Information may also be confidential as a trade secret pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 550.2(4). However, because the Board finds the Confidential Information confidential under Iowa Code § 22.7(6), the Board does not reach the question of whether the Confidential Information qualifies as a trade secret.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The request for confidential treatment filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on September 3, 2019, is granted under the provisions of Iowa Code § 22.7(6).

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2. The Confidential Information for which the Board has granted confidential treatment shall be withheld from public inspection by the Utilities Board subject to the provisions of Iowa Admin. Code 199—1.9(8)(b)(3).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser _____

/s/ Nick Wagner _____

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelsie Vanderflute _____

/s/ Richard W. Lozier, Jr. _____

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 27th day of September, 2019.